

Iowa Special Events Group, Inc.

Specialists in Sound & Communications

Dale Blair, CEO E.E.

January 16, 2002

Judge Kolar Kottely
c/o Renata Hesse, Trial Attorney
U.S. Department of Justice - Antitrust Division
601 D Street N.W., Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Judge Kottely,

I am writing in hopes to encourage the settlement with Microsoft. Most analysts agree that the suit is a wasteful use of taxpayer dollars; this case has a chilling effect on innovation, and is making it harder for entrepreneurs to raise capital.

Beaten in the market by better Microsoft products and services, competitors like Netscape (since acquired for billions by AOL) somehow talked the federal government into attacking Microsoft as an anti-competitive monopoly guilty of predatory practices. Remarkably enough, I read that AOL-Time Warner began lobbying the government against a competitive Microsoft product before it was even released! It's quite disturbing to think that a corporation such as AOL-Time Warner has such influence over our states' legal decisions.

It has been AOL-Time Warner, created as a result of AOL's merger with Time Warner, whose existence has raised real hackles about potential monopoly power. For its part, Oracle has left no stone unturned in trying to undermine Microsoft.

What disturbs me the most is that the government's attack on Microsoft may well have been motivated by a desire to assert control over the fastest growing and most independent industry in the country. That's a horrible philosophy if we want people to invest in new technologies and products that mean new jobs and growth for our future.

All this being said, I think the settlement is acceptable and it's time to move on.

Thank you for your time, as I know it is very valuable.

Sincerely,


Dale Blair

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